

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 141735
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, XF

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PATRIOTIC FRONT AT THE OAU SUMMIT

REF: LONDON 10057

1. WHILE WE AGREE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT LIBREVILLE
MEETING MIGHT GRANT EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION TO PATRIOTIC
FRONT, ALL THE EVIDENCE WE HAVE SEEN POINTS TO LESSENING
OF CHANCES OF SUCH ACTION. NOT ONLY WAS MOMENTUM
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FOR EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION SLOWED BY LOME CONFERENCE BUT
MAPUTO CONFERENCE APPEARED TO STRENGTHEN THIS TREND.
AWAY FROM EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION. ROLE OF IVORY COAST
AND OTHER MODERATES IN OPPOSITION TO PATRIOTIC FRONT
RECOGNITION WAS EVEN BOLDER THAN AT LOME. WE CAN
UNDERSTAND THAT BRITISH HAD A DIFFICULT TIME AT THE
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT

BECAUSE OF THE MILITANCY OF FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES.
OAU CONFERENCE WOULD BRING IN FRENCH-SPEAKING GROUP
AND LIBERIANS WHO APPEAR STRONGLY OPPOSED TO FRONT LINE
BACKING OF PATRIOTIC FRONT.

2. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH GRAHAM'S DISTINCTION
BETWEEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
FIGHTING FORCES AS OPPOSED TO ITS ROLE IN A POLITICAL
SETTLEMENT. NEVERTHELESS WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO ENGAGE
IN EVEN A LOW KEY EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE OAU ACTION IN THIS
MATTER SINCE WE BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY AND WE FEEL THAT THE
RISK OF DAMAGE TO THE RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BECOME AWARE OF OUR EFFORTS IS
GREATER THAN THE BENEFITS WHICH MIGHT BE OBTAINED.
FURTHERMORE WE BELIEVE BRITISH THEMSELVES SHOULD USE
EXTREME CAUTION IN THEIR EFFORTS AND SHOULD PROBABLY
CONFINE THEM TO SOUNDINGS ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF
EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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